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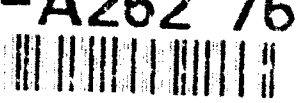

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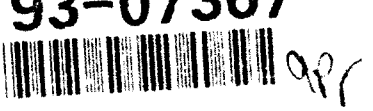

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A Cultural Resources Survey of the River Stone Closure Maintenance Project Above Williams, Hickman, Kentucky

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy D. McNeil

January 1984

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Maps

ABSTRACT

On 25 November 1983, an intensive cultural resources surveys was conducted by the Environmental Resources Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, over approximately 1.5 acres adjacent to the Mississipi River. The entire survey area was in woods. The proposed work includes construction of a stone closure and maintenance of the existing revetment. Maintenance may include grading, replacing the concrete skirt, and riprapping the top bank. A literature search and a pedestrian survey failed to located any prehistoric, historic or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

Introduction

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy D. McNeil, and Civil Engineer, Mr. David McNutt on 25 November 1983, within the revetment maintenance right-of-way as directed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. This study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

Project Description

The Above Williams area is located in Hickman County, Kentucky, at river mile 930, on the left descending bank. The project will affect only the proposed revetment maintenance and repair area (Map 1 and 2). Equipment can be brought in over an existing road and/or by boat.

Environmental Setting

The Williams area is characterized by cool, wet winters and hot, humid summers. Typically, winter rains last for several days duration and cover large areas, but lack the severity of summer storms. Summer thunderstorms are common but isolated and intense, causing localized flooding. The annual mean rainfall is 48 inches.

The ground surface was recently deposited sand. Bank profiles showed approximately 2 meters of sand atop sandy clay. The sandy clay layer extended below the water level. Portions of an old revetment could be seen, in the bank profile, approximately 0.5-1 meter below the present surface. A profile of the deposited sand showed crossbedding indicating aeolian deposition of the materials. The topography of the area is nearly flat with come undulating caused by sand duning.

The area of maintenance is a wooden area, adjacent to the Mississippi River. This area supports Johnson grass (Sorghum halepense) and scattered willow, cottonwood, elm and other related species on the fringe of the field. The quality of the "fringe" habitat in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the maintenance area is high for various small mammals and birds as well as numerous lower vertebrates.

Previous Research

Enough work has been conducted in the general area of the project, by such researchers as Phillips, Ford and Griffin (1951), Berwick (1978), Fitting (1976), and McHugh (1977), to isolate and date major cultural periods. However, little survey research has been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the project.

Results of the Records Search

The Kentucky Heritage Council and the National Register of Historic Places were consulted and no indications of prehistoric, historic or architectural cultural remains were on record within the project area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The designated project survey area is approximately 1.5 acres in size. Where possible, an area of the river bank was profiled in order to read the stratigraphy and look for cultural signs. Nine 30 x 30 x 30 cm shovel test units were randomly dug in the project area. All test units revealed recently deposited sand. No artifacts or features were found in the project area.

Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and a background records search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exist within the direct inpact zone. It is recommended that construction within the project right-of-way be allowed to proceed as planned.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage, by stopping construction until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Resources Section, Memphis District Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Kentucky State Archeologist.

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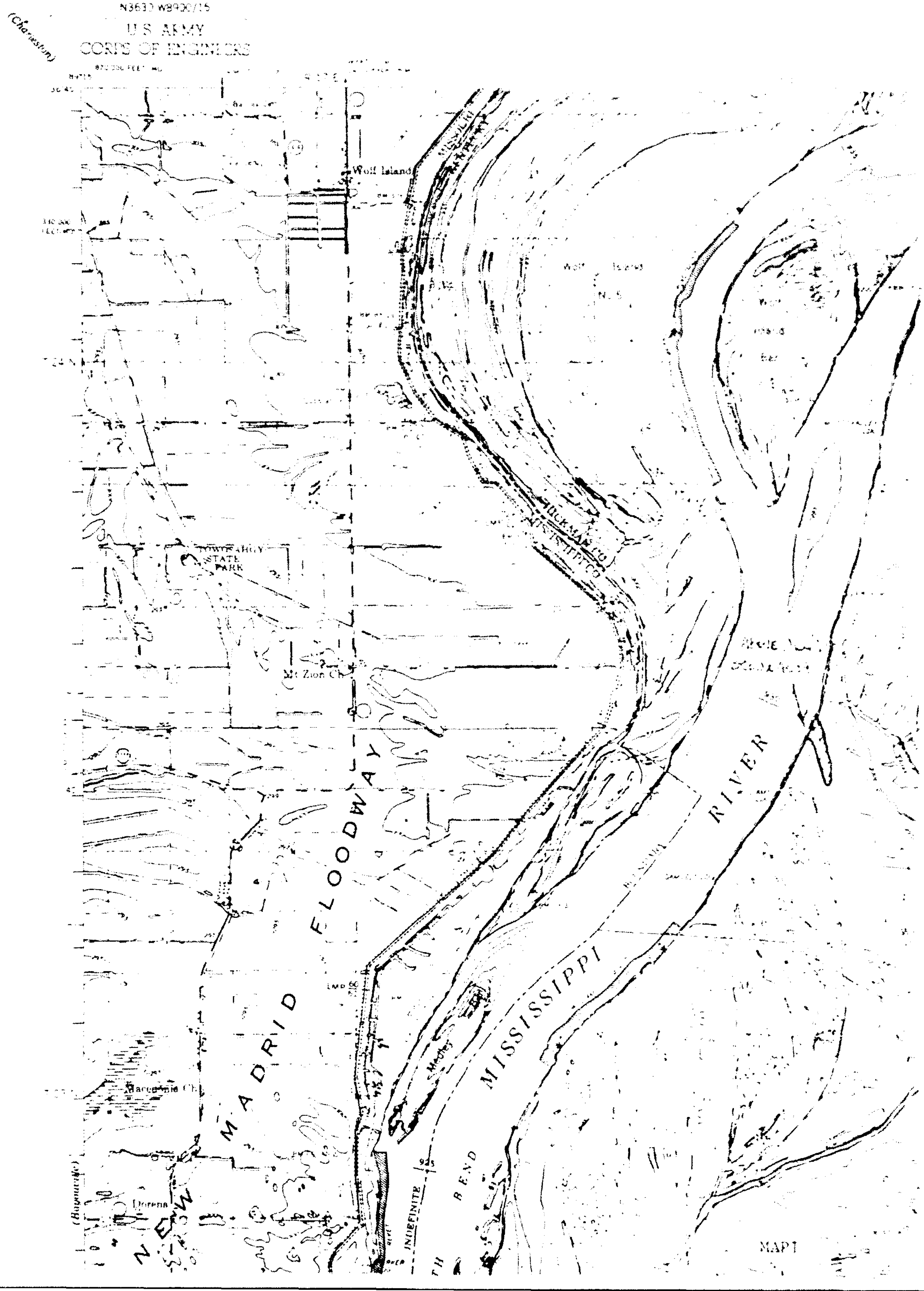

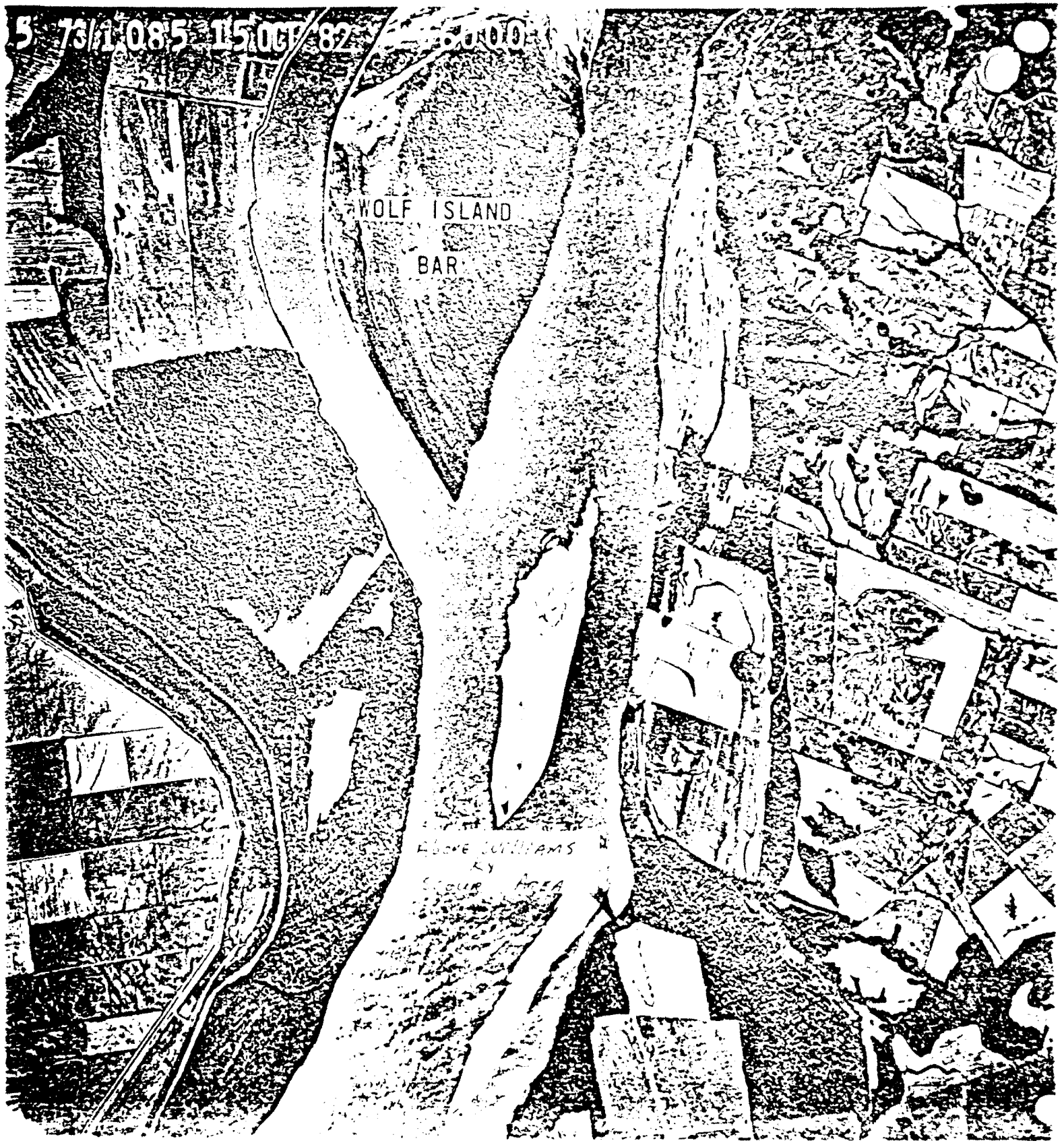
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